

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been divided into Groups as follows:

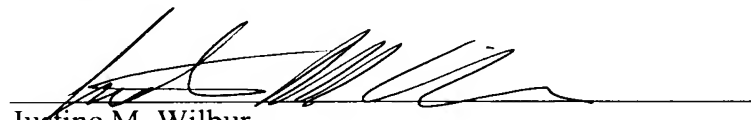
- Group 1: Claims 1-4, drawn to methods of making compounds of formula (VI).  
Group 2: Claim 5, drawn to compounds of formula (II).  
Group 3: Claim 6, drawn to compounds of formula (Ia).  
Group 4: Claims 7-8, drawn to compounds of formula (V) and (VI).

Applicants elect, without traverse, Group I, Claims 1-4 (drawn to methods of making compounds of formula (VI)), for examination.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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